

Education Alive

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HURRAY! The Standards Are Coming . . .



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Development of
Music - page 2-3

A New Direction for
C . P . E . A - page 4

I. C. T News Bytes
Special Edition
page 5-7

Supporting Children
with Learning Disability
page 8-9

Maths in a Fun New
Way - page 10

Benefits of a Foreign
Language - page 11

Headteachers'
&
Principals' 2012
Conference page 12

Coming Soon:
Education in Focus
page 13

Schools' Corner
page 14 -16

M . O . E says Farewell
pages 17

We are living in exciting times, particularly in the Early Childhood sub-sector. Now, more than ever, parents, teachers and all other stakeholders in education have become keenly aware of the benefits of establishing a solid start for our children. Not only so, but the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has identified Early Childhood Education (ECE) as a key component in setting the foundation for quality learning in the later stages of a child's life.

In its effort to expose children (ages 3 - 5) to Early Childhood Education, the Government embarked on compiling the Early Childhood Standards. The main aim is to ensure that children are exposed to the same quality of services and programmes so that there was equity in this education sector. To this end, the Early Childhood Standard was drafted and finally accepted by Cabinet in November 2011.

According to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Early Childhood Standards, to operate a preschool in St. Vincent, the supervisor or owner must have the following:

1. A sound knowledge of or background in Early Childhood Education
2. A police certificate of character for both supervisors and teachers
3. A building that is comfortable, well ventilated and environmentally safe.
4. Furniture, comprising tables and chairs that are child-sized



5. A document from the Ministry of Health confirming that the building has been inspected and does not pose a threat to the children's health

6. A document giving the mission statement, objectives, teachers' qualifications, the type of programme that would be offered, the approximate size of the building (floor plan should be attached), the number of children that the pre-school will cater for in terms of males and females, the ages of these children and other pertinent information

The Standards are Coming . . .

continued from front page.

7. Bathroom facilities with wash basins and toilets that cater for children

The standards also mandate that the staff must be trained.

In addition, the Early Childhood Standards emphasize that learning centres to:

- Make provision for children with special needs
- Provide supervision and physical care for students
- Promote healthy Nutrition: meals must be balanced and provision made for the child's cultural beliefs
- Have regular staff meetings to discuss programmes, do lesson planning and work out details about the operations of the preschool
- Conduct Parent / Teacher conferences
- Have Open Day (as often as possible)
- Conduct Staff appraisal or evaluation
- Have a clear policy on discipline

Owning and operating a child care business can be a very challenging yet rewarding career. Success in this field requires direction, love and patience. The work day is longer than a normal eight hour day, but the satisfaction of watching children grow and develop will be worth the extra effort. It is now time for implementation of the ECE standards. Early Childhood Practitioners need to get their schools ready in order to meet the requirements.

MUSIC ON THE GO!



The Music Department in the Ministry of Education, in an effort to build capacity, continues to embark on a series of music workshops for all primary educators across the country.

The zonal workshops are conducted annually and run from January to May of each year. The areas covered include: music theory, vocal technique, instrumental instruction, and music technology. Recently added to the schedule is a detailed look at the music curriculum highlighting various teaching methods. This section was included to directly meet the needs of the Common Entrance exam and to better prepare both students and teachers alike. Generally, this level of instruction is intended to enhance the class room teacher's ability to effectively teach music and apply those practical skills to their school's extra-curricular events.



Students of the Student Support Services

Workshop participants are encouraged to take the internationally recognized and accepted Royal Schools of Music (London, England) examination. With the assistance of the Music Department, these exams further qualify our teachers; many of whom have gone on to complete Bachelors degrees in music education. The music workshops are among the list of 'things to do' for the academic year 2012 - 2013.

The secondary school band programmes continue to thrive, operating in 14 schools throughout the island. These are:

- 1 Troumaca Secondary School
- 2 Bequia SDA Secondary School
- 3 Thomas Saunders Secondary School
- 4 Emmanuel Mespo Secondary School
- 5 North Union Secondary School
- 6 Bishops' College
- 7 Sandy Bay Secondary School
- 8 West St. George Secondary School
- 9 Bethel High School
- 10 St. Joseph's Convent Kingstown
- 11 George Stephens Secondary School
- 12 Barrouallie Secondary School
- 13 St. Vincent Grammar School
- 14 Petit Bordel Secondary School

With only 14 secondary schools exposed to this opportunity, the Music Department is hoping to add many more schools to the list. The department recognizes the need to do additional training of our band leaders to ensure that all schools have the necessary equipment, routine checks and maintenance, and standardized repertoires. Also, there is a desire to create additional opportunities for our students to showcase their talents. The band program is one of the priority areas for the Music Department for the new academic year.

Junior Calypso is not only a segment of Carnival but also a major component of the Music department's portfolio. Students learn to

appreciate the artform of calypso as an avenue for self-expression and artistry. In the month of January, a symposium is normally held to prepare students to compete in the national festival. In conjunction with Carnival Development Corporation (CDC), various calypso artistes are engaged to educate the students about the calypso genre. During this period, the Music department acts as a resource for those students who advance to the final rounds of competition as they prepare for the big stage.



Cross section of the audience at the Junior Calypso Symposium 2012, Peace Memorial Hall



Much more is in store for the upcoming year. Mark your calendar for the annual Christmas festival carded for the months of November and December.

A NEW DIRECTION

in assessing students performance in the Caribbean?

Common Entrance vs the CPEA



Assessing students' learning is a key component of the education process. Recently, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, methods of assessment have come under severe scrutiny. Probably, the area of assessment that has received the highest level of criticism is the Grade 6 Common Entrance Examination.

Although few have put forward any reasonable alternative, the Caribbean Examinations Council is now proposing the Caribbean Primary Exit Assessment (CPEA). This new assessment was piloted in Grenada and many individuals have lauded the pilot as successful.

The CPEA Administrators' Handbook explains:

The Caribbean Primary Exit Assessment (CPEA) is an assessment of the literacies required by all pupils exiting the primary school system. The focus of this assessment is on a set of literacies which are common to all primary curricula across the region and are necessary for students to achieve at higher levels of education. These include mathematical, language, civic and scientific literacies

The CPEA will therefore focus on the assessment of literacies and not individual subjects as is the case with traditional end-of-primary examinations.

This assessment would comprise of an internal and an external component. In a nutshell, this internal component would eliminate the practice of forcing students to prove their worth in one day after seven years of schooling. Moreover, both teachers and students would have the opportunity to identify areas of weakness/ incompetence before the final day of reckoning and work towards mastery. Hopefully, this method of assessment would drive the process of teaching and learning so the quality of education provided in the region is improved.

As educators, perhaps the time has come for us to examine other options in assessing our students' academic achievements. The education system has changed in many ways. Has the national CEE outlived its usefulness? How will students benefit if the CPEA is adopted? How would this impact the advancement of education in this nation?

THE ICT NEWS BYTES

Interactive White board Training

Training sessions were conducted on Feb 15th 2012 for the “Effective use of the Interactive Whiteboard in the Learning Space”.

Teachers from Primary schools in the Windward Districts came together at the Union Methodist Primary School. Twenty two (22) teachers received hands-on interaction with the smart board. Areas of focus were the setting up the smart board, orientation of the board, and how to effectively plan lessons which integrate the smart board as a learning tool.

On that same day, another training session was done at the Bequia Anglican Primary school for both Primary and Secondary School teachers in Bequia.

Information Technology Workshop

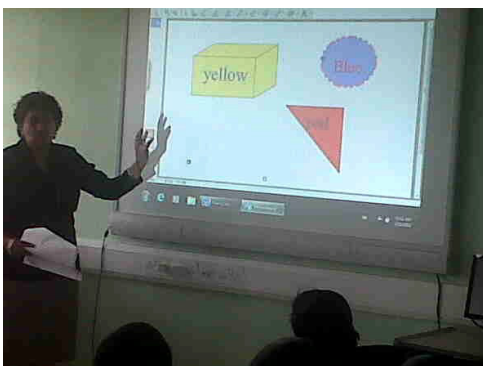
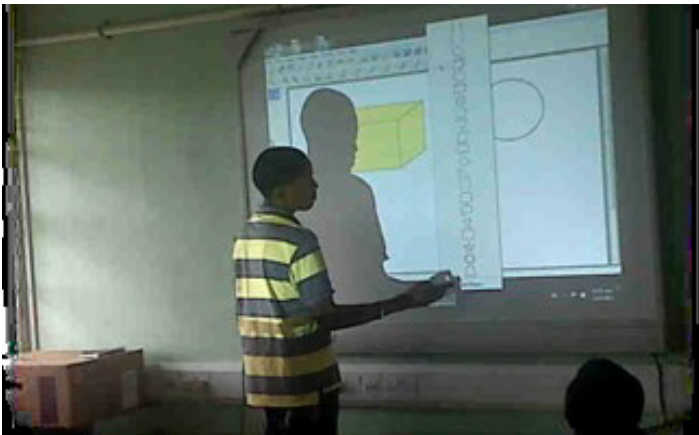
Fifteen (15) secondary school teachers attended an Information Technology workshop on 21st Feb, 2012 at the Intermediate High School.

Teachers discussed how to assist students with the upcoming Information Technology CSEC exam and ICT Integration in the classroom. Focus was mainly on the programming language “Pascal” as this is the most challenging aspect of the CSEC syllabus to students. To provide further assistance with this aspect of the syllabus, a DVD prepared by Mr. Ramesh Outar of the Mountain View Academy was distributed to each participant. Fifteen (15) secondary schools were represented at this workshop.

**Please ensure that you are
working in the new
CSEC Syllabus for 2014 Exams.**

- Office Administrative
- Electronic Document Preparation and Management (EDPM)
- Physical Education

**CXC has also revised the
CCSLC Level**



Interactive Smart
Board training

THE ICT NEWS BYTES

A revised EDPM CSEC syllabus is now available and exams based on this will be effective from 2014.

EDPM Subject Panel in book review exercise



Useful links to learn about the Interactive Smart Board
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwla8E6jz4g&feature=related>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJcfsnw_EhE&feature

site be linked to the SVGeNET portal. She also stressed the need for frequent updates and monitoring of the website and to have the site as interactive as possible.

Director of Special Projects in the Office of the Prime Minister and former Minister of Telecommunications, Dr. Jerrol Thompson also delivered brief remarks.



Dr. Jerrol Thompson explained how technology can be useful to a young child.

Pamelus Burke Primary School launches Website

Pamelus Burke Government School has launched the school's website: www.pbgsbyrea.weebly.com.

At the official launch, Mr. Wane DaBriel (Principal) stated: "A committee of teachers from the school worked on this website but it was mainly created by Ms. Elizabeth Miller, the Peace Corps Volunteer assigned to the school." The ICT Education Officer Mrs. Channyatt Ramsamooj addressed the topic: "The uses of the website" and also congratulated the Head Teacher, staff, and parents for the achievement. Mrs. Ramsamooj suggested that the web-



Principal:
Mr. Wane DaBriel,
Pamelus Primary

THE ICT NEWS BYTES



IT Hints for You

Computer Maintenance Guidelines

- Keep your workstation free from dust
- Do not eat or drink at your workstation
- Scan all removable devices before using
- Keep the computer cool so that it will not over-heat
- Perform regular updates and run anti virus checks
- Close all programs and shut down the computer before leaving for the day
- Change your login password at least once every three months
- Turn off power switch after the computer is fully turned off

ICT Integration Training

Fifteen (15) classroom teachers have completed the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill Campus) Certification in ICT Integration. These teachers are expected to be mentors for other classroom teachers and produce model lessons to be used as best practice lessons to assist other teachers.

Early June, a cohort of thirty (30) participants commenced training in the Commonwealth of Learning Certificate on Teacher ICT Integration (COLCTI)..

The St Vincent and the Grenadines Committee for the Integration of Technology in Education (SVG CITE) group and website were launched on March 19th 2012 with the theme: "ICT Now for the Future"

<http://www.svgcite.weebly.com>

For more information on Curriculum Guides grades K - 9, learning and support resources and activities for teachers and students

Educational resource

The image shows the Edmodo logo, which consists of the word "edmodo" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font inside a white rounded rectangle with a blue border. Below the logo, the text "A Space for Learning" is written in a smaller, dark grey font, followed by the tagline "Collaborate, Share, Discuss" in an even smaller font. At the bottom, there is a large blue button with the text "START USING IT NOW" in white, uppercase letters. Below this button are two smaller, light blue buttons with rounded corners. The first button has a right-pointing arrow icon and the text "I'm a Teacher". The second button also has a right-pointing arrow icon and the text "I'm a Student".

SUPPORTING CHILDREN

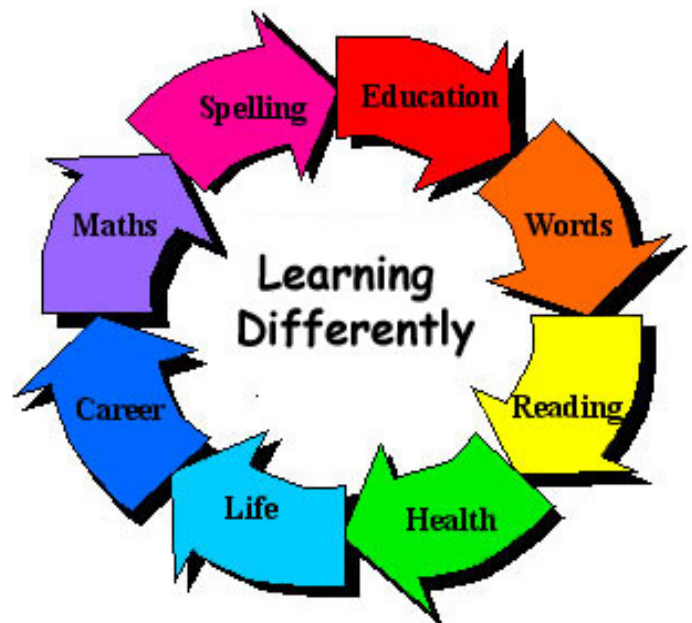
With Learning Disability

Children with Learning Disabilities should be supported; parents and teachers can play a pivotal role.

A learning disability is a neurological disorder. In simple terms, a learning disability results from a difference in the way a person's brain is "wired." Children with learning disabilities are as smart as or smarter than their peers. But they may have difficulty reading, writing, spelling, reasoning, recalling and/or organizing information if taught in conventional ways.

A learning disability can't be cured or fixed; it is a lifelong issue. With the right support and intervention, however, children with learning disabilities can succeed in school and go on to be very successful later in life.

Research shows that the level of parent involvement in a child's education is strongly related to the degree of success in school (Henderson & Berla, 1994). "Families play a vital role in educating children. What families do is more important to student success than whether they are rich or poor, whether parents have finished high school or not, or whether children are in elementary, junior high, or high school" (Robinson, in Paulu, 1995). The importance of family involvement in education led the U.S. Congress to add the following goal to the National Education Goals: "Every school will promote partnerships that will increase parental involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional, and academic growth of children" (Sutton, 1998).



Many children struggle daily with learning disabilities. Parents and teachers must work together to help children with special needs kids reach their full potential.

When a child is diagnosed with a learning disability parents may start to worry and feel overwhelmed. They should rest assured, though, that their child can learn and has great potential to do so. Here are some suggestions of how parents can help their children with a learning disability:

1. Help the child to become an expert on his or her particular disability.
2. Speak to the child's physician.
3. Look for trusted internet sources to learn more about the child's disability.

GIVING SUPPORT

4. Parents should also take their child's education into their own hands.

5. Work closely with the child's school to make sure that the child is getting the best education possible.

6. Speak to the school administrators and ask about any special programs, such as before or after school tutoring, that are offered to children with special needs.

7. Take advantage of these programs. Also, keep in constant contact with the child's teacher and ask for regular progress reports. Schools and teachers are usually happy to help children with special needs and their parents.

Parents can help their children learn by teaching them in practical ways at home. Spend time reading and writing together. Teach math skills when cooking from a recipe and using certain measurements or when shopping and dealing with money. Provide the child with a quiet and stress free area to work in as they do homework. Give the child emotional support if he or she starts to lose faith in his or her ability to learn or gets frustrated. Check over their homework and give them loving reassurance and support. A child who is shown such loving attention will be grateful to his or her parents for years to come.

How can teachers Help?

Teachers likely see many children with learning disabilities pass through their classrooms. There are many ways that teachers can help these kids succeed.

1. Teachers can tailor their teaching methods to the needs of students with learning disabilities.

For example, they can give tests orally to those who have trouble reading.

2. They can also try to avoid complicated wording when giving tests orally.

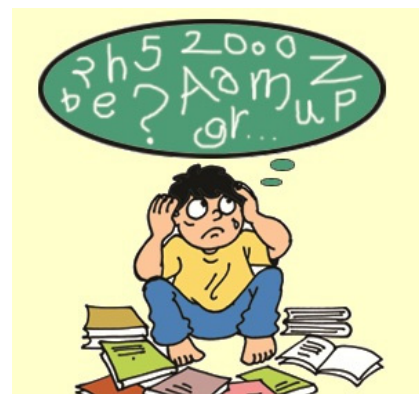
3. Teachers can try to verbalize instructions that have been written on the chalk board or overhead projector.

4. Teachers may want to make a second set of textbooks available to parents of children with special needs. If the child forgets his or her books at school he or she will have another copy at home.

5. Teachers can also communicate assignments instructions to parents so that they can work with the child at home.

6. Most importantly, teachers should remain positive when working with special needs children. They should be encouraging and patient. Always try to make sure that the child understands what they are supposed to. This may take time and more than extra effort, but it is well worth it.

Every child deserves a good education. Children with learning disabilities need special attention and parents and teachers are the best people to offer this kind of support.



MATHS IS FUN TOO!

Learning MATHS in a NEW WAY

Mathematics Word Wall

The Purpose:

The purpose of the Mathematics Word Wall is to identify words and phrases that students need to understand and use so as to make good progress in mathematics. Mathematical language is crucial to children's development of thinking. If students do not have the vocabulary to talk about math concepts and skills, they cannot make progress in understanding these areas of mathematical knowledge. They need to be familiar with mathematical vocabulary and mathematical terms to understand written and spoken instructions.

A structured approach to the teaching and learning of mathematical vocabulary is essential if students are to begin using the correct mathematical terminology.

- Introduce new words in a suitable context, for example with relevant real objects, pictures and/or diagrams.

- Explain their meanings carefully and revisit them several times.

- Students cannot learn the meaning of words in isolation and the use of questions is critical in helping them to understand mathematical ideas and to use mathematical terms correctly. It is important to ask questions in different ways so that students who do not understand the first time may pick up the meaning subsequently.

Mathematics Word Walls are to be active and built upon. Words are to be posted as they

are introduced in the day's lesson. Mathematics spirals and students need to explore multiple exposures to important concepts and skills.

Here are some examples -

Number Sense, Concepts, and Operations Word Wall

even

odd

liter

meter

area

$\frac{\text{frac}}{\text{tion}}$

LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE

BENEFITS OF A FOREIGN LANGUAGE



The benefits of foreign language learning are phenomenal especially for communication in the changing process of globalization. Linguists such as Dulay and Krashen(1984) express the view that foreign language learning “is necessary to function in society,” They also opined that in the field of commerce, “foreign language competence will be among the most sought after skill... for business people into the twenty-first century”.In this regard, therefore; a Modern Foreign language forms part of the National core Curriculum with schools offering either French or Spanish or both French and Spanish to students from Forms 1 to 5.



French and Spanish have also been formerly introduced in the primary schools in 2001.

Approximately forty (40) schools offer either French or Spanish from Grades 3-6; In few cases from Kindergarten or grade 2.

Emphasis is increasingly placed on the incorporation of technology in teaching foreign languages. Many teachers are constantly applying the use of computers, mobile phones, iPods, and the internet in the delivery of concepts. The effect of interactivity with a music video game, on second language vocabulary recall is highlighted by several technologists.

Opportunities / Jobs

Depending on the language studied, the skills can be of great value in varied fields: business, medicine, sciences, engineering, computing, music, law, social work, public relations, politics and travel industry. Having a sound knowledge of a foreign language can afford the opportunity to travel or complete an international internship. (Currently an intern from France is attached to the Alliance Française, assisting with the teaching of French while improving her acquisition of English, as a second language). In addition one can be a strong candidate for fellowship or ambassadorial scholarships, following graduation from post-secondary or university levels. Several programs and jobs require a minimum knowledge of at least one language other than English or the native language.

Here are a few jobs that may be undertaken

- Teacher,
- Linguist
- Translator
- Interpreter
- Tour guide
- Bartenders
- Diplomat
- Business representative
- Overseas Sales person

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND

HEADTEACHERS' & PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE 2012

The Curriculum Development Unit within the Ministry of Education held its first Headteachers' and Principals' conference on the 26th and 27th April 2012. The theme of the conferences was 'Strategizing for school improvement: Let's Share.'

The objective of these conferences were:

1. To establish a system for monitoring student assessment and tracking their progress
2. To sensitize Headteachers and Principals to the current initiatives in areas such as literacy, numeracy and ICT integration.
3. To re-examine practical ways of creating strong learning environments
4. To review with Principals and Headteachers the role of the Curriculum Development Unit.

Unit. The Senior Education Officer/Curriculum Mrs. Aldia Gumbs Dyer and other senior Ministry Officials also addressed the conferences.



Senior Education Officer / Curriculum; Aldia Gumbs- Dyer making her presentation at the Conference



Principals of Secondary Schools at Conference at the Curriculum Conference Room



Headteachers of Primary Schools across SVG at the Headteachers Conference, NIS Training Room

The two-day conferences saw presentations from the different departments within the Curriculum

COMING SOON

**MONDAY 12TH
TO
FRIDAY 16TH
NOVEMBER 2012**

**NATIONAL SCIENCE
&
TECHNOLOGY EXPOSITION**

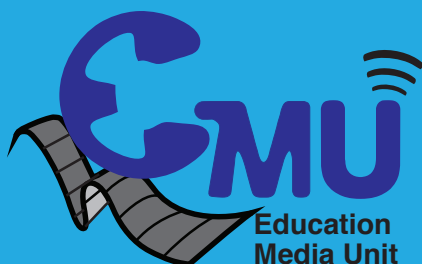
IN FOCUS

Did you know?

La Celia Prince, Ambassador of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United States, was an avid lover and learner of French and Spanish. She formed part of a delegation of four students from the Girls' High School. The delegation represented St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the French Regional Quiz in St. Kitts in 1992.



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SCHOOLS' CORNER

MY CAREER

A career is a job that you look forward to having. I would like to be a pilot when I grow up because I have a fascination with aircrafts. A pilot is a person who is responsible for controlling an aircraft or ship and can be either male or female. My career is one that I have been looking forward to since I was a little boy in preschool. I've chosen this career because of a spray plane that has always been in my community spraying bananas.

I would like to be an airline pilot, because I would be travelling back and forth all around the world. I would like to be the captain pilot as they are in control of everything that goes on in the plane. I would also like to be the pilot of a 747 8 hundred aircraft, as they are large and can hold over two hundred passengers and would be very hard to fly; but I think I can handle it.

Some of the benefits of my career are that, I would be transporting persons from one country to the next and would be awarded and ranked if I am a safe pilot. I would also be receiving a very high salary if I transport people on time, safely and to their correct destination. Another benefit is I would be providing air transportation for customers and I am sure that they will be satisfied with the services that I will be providing for them.



I have to achieve my career by paying attention to my education and not be distracted by anything. Some subjects that I have to master are Math,

Physics, Science and Social Studies. My Career is not going to be achieved easily as I have to go to secondary school, College and University. I would also have to go to pilot school which is somehow very expensive; so I would have to begin saving and have jobs during the summer.

My career is to be a pilot and is it is very complicated. My favourite aircraft is the Ayres Turbo Thrush which is called a spray plane.



Receiving the winning trophy

Andre Bailey
Georgetown Government School
1st Place, Literacy Enrichment Writing
Competition

Tourist Attraction in my Country

Tourist attractions are beautiful and historic places within a country. St. Vincent and the Grenadines has a lot of tourist attractions. From the North to the South are magnificent sceneries. Some of them are The Botanical Gardens, Fort Charlotte,

SCHOOLS' CORNER

cont from page 16.

The Vermont Nature Trail and La Soufriere.

The Botanical Gardens is a beautiful paradise located in Kingstown. It was established in 1765 and is the oldest garden in the Western Hemisphere. This garden is where Captain Bligh brought the breadfruit plant. This garden also contains a museum and has different species of plants. This garden is very beautiful and still has a bit of history.



Fort Charlotte is a fortification with a lot of history. It was built in 1826. It was named after King George's third wife. There is a museum located in it with colourful history of the black Caribs. Also located in it is a radio station. This fort was used by the early settlers. They used it to hide from enemies when there were wars. They also had cannon balls stored there to defeat their enemies. This fort is a part of history.

The Vermont Nature Trail is a lush forest with different species of plants. It is a great place to hike and bird watch. This is also where the national bird, the Amazona Guildingii's habitat is located. You can also find cultivated fields at the Vermont Nature Trail. It is a great trip to go here

if you want to do an adventurous activity, see the fragrant flowers or see the Amazona Guildingii.

La Soufriere is St. Vincent and the Grenadines volcano. It erupted on April 1979. It is a great place to hike and see an overview of the country. La Soufriere comes from the French word Sulphur. When La Soufriere erupted it caused many people to be homeless. Some even died. It hasn't erupted since but it is still active. It is a marvelous place you must try to see if you can go to visit it.

These are the tourist attractions in my country. You should check to see if your country has any. Tourist attractions are not only for tourist they are also for the locals. Enjoy the tourist attractions. They are not only to go to and have fun, they are also to be a reminder of your country's history.



Joshuana presenting her essay after writing it.

Joshuana Alexander
Calliaqua Anglican School
2nd Place, Literacy Enrichment Writing Competition

SCHOOLS' CORNER

Tourist Attraction in my Country

Our country has lots of beautiful sites that tourists can visit, but there are two that they will always be visited when tourists come here. They are the Botanical Gardens and the Owia Salt Pond.

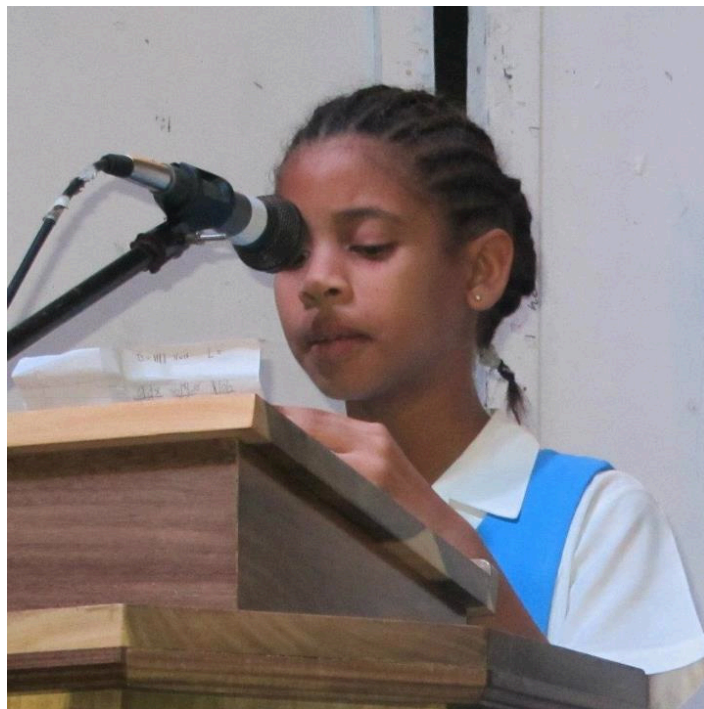
The Botanical Gardens is a very interesting place to visit. There are many things you can see, hear and learn. One thing that tourists will always learn is that it is the oldest garden in the Western Hemisphere. They will learn that this country's national bird the Amazona Guildingii also lives at the Botanical Gardens. They will also hear the sound of it in its cage. As soon as you get there you will see the beautiful trees that are planted there. There are so many that you will like to take a flower from each, but there are rules which will not allow you to take any of the beautiful flowers that are situated there. You will find lots of majestic animals that live there. You will find animals such as birds, maybe snakes and lots more. Just the beautiful site will make you feel as if you're in heaven. It is situated right in the beautiful city of Kingstown.



Then there is the Owia Salt Pond that is in the beautiful

village of Owia. The wonderful Salt Pond is visited by a lot of tourists. The pond is well known all over. The water is warm and is barricaded by a natural stone wall. The way leading to the two ponds is a bit of a challenge but almost like a puzzle. When you are finished you will go up back the steps and take a shower in the fresh water baths; then you can just relax on the picnic benches or under the gazeboes. It is so relaxing that you might fall asleep in the water or under the almond trees.

So the next time you visit this country of St. Vincent make sure to visit the two wonderful sites of the Botanical Gardens or the Owia Salt Pond.



Ronniefia presenting her essay
Tourist Attraction in my Country

Ronniefia Clarke
Argyle Primary School
3rd Place, Literacy Enrichment Writing Competition

Ministry of Education says farewell...

Mr. Charles Samuel
Education Officer Tech Voc Officer



Mrs. Cecile Harry
Education Officer
(Early Childhood Education)



Cecil Charles
Education Officer (Media)



Early Childhood Pals:
Senior Education Officer
Gwenette Cambridge (left)
& Cecile Harry



Ministry of Education held a farewell Luncheon in honor of three Education Officers.

Charles Samuel, Cecile Harry and Cecil Charles have retired after many years of service and were duly sent off. The event took place on July 6th 2012, Curriculum Development Unit, Conference Room.



CEO hugs Mr. Samuel



SEO Dyer shares a moment
with Education Officer Howard